

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 HA-05
BIB-01 /124 W
-----114412 301413Z /45

R 291510Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1220
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PL, PEPR, UR
SUBJECT: GIEREK VISIT TO MOSCOW

REF: WARSAW 3294 (NOTAL)

1. IN AN APRIL 26 CONVERSATION A POLISH EMBOFF GAVE US
BRIEFING ON THE GIEREK VISIT TO MOSCOW WHICH CORRESPONDED
TO THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN WARSAW 3294. HE ADDED
ONLY THAT THE CONVERSATIONS, ABOUT WHICH HE WAS NOT WELL
INFORMED (NO ONE FROM THE EMBASSY PARTICIPATED AND NO
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REPORTS WERE LEFT BEHIND), ALSO COVERED THE VANCE TRIP
AND BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS WHICH HE CLAIMED WERE IN
GOOD, IF NOT EXCELLENT, SHAPE. SOURCE CLAIMED THAT THE
TIMING OF THE VISIT WAS NOT SUDDEN, ALTHOUGH THE EXACT
DATE WAS PICKED ON SHORT NOTICE. GIEREK WISHED TO MEET
WITH THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP BEFORE THE BREZHNEV TRIP TO
BONN AND BEFORE THE CONVENING OF THE WP FOREIGN MINISTERS

MEETING IN SOFIA. ALSO THE TWO SIDES WERE LOOKING FOR AN OCCASION TO PIN ON THE MEDAL WHICH GIEREK WAS AWARDED LAST NOVEMBER ON HIS 65TH BIRTHDAY. BREZHNEV'S ILLNESS, UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE BONN TRIP, AND CROWDED SCHEDULES COMBINED TO MAKE A QUICK TRIP ON APRIL 18 NECESSARY.

2. OUR SOURCE CLAIMED THAT POLAND HAS A SPECIAL NEED FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS ON GERMAN ISSUES AND THAT THIS IS RECOGNIZED BY MOSCOW BY, FOR EXAMPLE, CONSENTING TO MEETINGS SUCH AS THIS ONE. GIEREK REVIEWED POLISH RELATIONS WITH THE FRG, ECONOMIC ABOVE ALL, AND RECEIVED FROM BREZHNEV A BRIEFING ON THE SOVIET VIEWS OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE FRG. TRADE AND CREDIT ISSUES DOMINATED THE DISCUSSION, BUT OUR SOURCE WAS UNAWARE OF THE SPECIFICS.

3. THE VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE AND GENERAL QUESTIONS OF DETENTE WERE DISCUSSED ALSO, AS WAS THE SOFIA FONMIN MEETING. ON THIS LATTER OUR SOURCE SAID THAT THE SSOD AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THE BELGRADE CSCE MEETING WERE THE PRIME TOPICS (SINCE CONFIRMED BY THE SOFIA COMMUNIQUE). HE WAS UNINFORMED ABOUT ANY OF THE DETAILS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS. THE MOST HE WOULD DO WAS TO SPECULATE THAT NEITHER BREZHNEV NOR GIEREK WOULD ATTEND THE SSOD AND THAT THIS WOULD BE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SOFIA MEETING, ALTHOUGH ROMANIA WOULD LIKELY BREAK RANKS AND CEAUSESCU WOULD ATTEND.

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4. OUR SOURCE SEEMED SOMEWHAT MORE SURE OF HIS INFORMATION ON THE BILATERAL ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS ROUTINE. NO NEW MEASURES OR PROJECTS WERE DECIDED; EXPERTS WERE NOT INVITED TO ATTEND FOR THIS REASON. HE SAID THAT AFTER AN UNEASY PERIOD SIX MONTHS AGO, THE SOVIETS SEEMED MORE SATISFIED WITH POLISH ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF LATE. THIS RELATIVE SATISFACTION SHOWED IN THE SOVIET COMMENTS DURING THE GIEREK VISIT (E.G. PRAISE OF GIEREK AT THE MEDAL CEREMONY), BUT UNFORTUNATELY FOR POLAND, THIS MAY RESULT IN DEMANDS BY THE SOVIETS FOR ACCELERATION OF PAYMENTS OVER THE CURRENT SCHEDULES.

5. COMMENT: OUR INFORMATION, HENCE, IS AS SKIMPY AS EMBASSY WARSAW'S AND OUR INITIAL CONCLUSIONS ARE ABOUT THE SAME. UNLESS THERE IS NEW EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY, WE ARE INCLINED TO SEE THE VISIT AS ONE OF THE ROUTINE SOVIET-POLISH CONSULTATIONS WHICH ARE SOMETIMES, NOT ALWAYS, SIGNED IN ADVANCE.

6. YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR WHO USUALLY HAS GOOD ANTENNAE FOR THESE MEETINGS HAS NOT YET SEEN HIS POLISH COLLEAGUE BUT HAS A "GUT" FEELING THAT THE REASON FOR THE VISIT WAS OVER-

WHELMINGLY ECONOMIC. HE ALSO FELT THAT IT REPRESENTED A
SOVIET PUBLIC GESTURE THAT THEY ALSO CONSULT WITH THEIR
ALLIES BEFORE IMPORTANT VISITS, IN THIS CASE THE VANCE
TRIP HERE AND BREZHNEV'S TO BONN. SOME OF OUR DIPLOMATIC
COLLEAGUES THOUGHT THAT THE SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE HINTED
AT LESS WARMTH IN THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE THAN THE POLES
MIGHT HAVE HOPED FOR, BUT OUR OWN ESTIMATE IS THAT THE
WORDS AND THE TONE WERE ABOUT RIGHT. TOON

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